

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016

The new *Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016 (Air Quality EPP)* has come into effect to better protect and improve the health of South Australians, their communities and the environment.

The policy reduces the impact of smoke and other air pollutants on communities across the state.

The new policy reflects current understanding of health impacts from air pollution, with the regulation and management of air quality now in line with contemporary practices.

The key changes to the Policy include:

- The EPA taking a 'whole-of-air-shed' approach to managing air quality in South Australia
- Regulating the sale and installation of wood heaters, and the sale of firewood
- Streamlining council management of burning in the open through regulation, while ensuring the ability to burn off for bushfire prevention is maintained
- Greater consideration of risk to health and the environment when setting stack emission limits

Burning off in townships and metropolitan Adelaide will be restricted under the new Policy but burning for fuel reduction will be permitted by general notice or permit, at the discretion of each council.

The Environment Protection Authority's Director of Science and Assessment, Peter Dolan, said "The new Policy does not require permits for burning off outside of metropolitan Adelaide and outside of townships beyond metropolitan Adelaide, however burning off will need to comply with CFS codes of practice to reduce the risk of bushfire."

Peter Dolan said, "Red tape will now be reduced for fringe metropolitan councils that were required to provide permits for every burn undertaken in their rural areas under the old policy that was implemented 22 years ago."

Councils may now issue notices to allow burning across parts of their area where they deem burning off without a permit to be appropriate.

More details on the Air Quality Policy 2016 are contained in the Public Consultation Report available through the [EPA website](#).

The revised policy will reflect the status quo for the majority of South Australians.

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